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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7033
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

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EO 12065: GDS 10/7/86 (RUSER, CLAUS W.) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR ONDISAPPEARANCES

REF: (A) STATE SECTO 8046, (B) STATE 263737; (C) BUENOS AIRES
7578; (D) BUENOS AIRES 7745

1. (S) - ENTIRE TEXT

2. EMBASSY APPRECIATES PROMPT DEBRIEFING ON FOREIGN
MINISTER PASTOR'S MEETINGS WITH THE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARY BOWDLER. INITIAL REPORTS WER HAVE RECEIVED SUGGEST
THAT PASTOR HAS PRESENTED THE MEETINGS AS VERY PSOITIVE AND
CONSTRUCTIVE, IF NECESSARILY VERY FRANK, AND HAS EXPRESSED HIS
COMPLETE SATISAFACTION.

3. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD LIKE TO NOTE PASTOR'S ALLEGATION THAT
THERE HAVE BEEN NO GENUINE DISAPPEARANCES THIS YEAR AND THAT
THOSE WHICH HAD ALLEGEDLY OCCURRED, HAD BEEN ARRANGED AND PAID
FOR BY THE MONTONEROS. WE ARE OF COURSE CONSCIOUS OF THE FACT
THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT POWER AND
AUTHORITY IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND THUS INEVITABLY IS DRIVEN INTO A
HIGHLY DEFENSIVE POSTURE WHENEVER THIS ISSUE COMES UP. FOREIGN
MINISTER PASTOR, LIKE OTHERS, MAY QUITE POSSIBLY BELIEVE HIS

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ALLEGATION; (IN ANY CASE, HE WILL RETIRE TO PRIVATE LIFE
NEXT MARCH). IT IS, HOWEVER, CONTRARY TO THE INFORMATION WE
HAVE REPORTED AND WE SEE NO REASON TO MODIFY OUR CONCLUSIONS
(SEE, FOR EXAMPLE, REFTELS C AND D), WHICH ARE SET FORTH IN OUR

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DRAFT HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT ARGENTINA'S DIALOGUE WITH THE US, TO BE USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE, SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY FRANKNESS, AND IS NOT ADVANCED BY THE KIND OF STATEMENTS MADE BY PASTOR IN NEW YORK, HOWEVER UNSTANDABLE THEY MIGHT BE IN TERMS OF PASTOR'S PERSONAL POSITION.

5. IN OUR CONTACTS, PRINCIPALLY WITH MILITARY INTERLOCUTORS AND SOURCES IN THE PRESIDENCY, WE WILL PLAN TO SAY:

-- THE US FOUND THE TALKS WITH PASTOR GENERALLY USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE;

-- FRANKNESS IS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE DIALOGUE WHICH BOTH GOVERNMENTS VALUE;

-- ACCORDING TO THE BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE USG FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, THERE HAVE BEEN DISAPPEARANCES THIS YEAR; THE USG WILL HAVE TO SAY SO IN THIS YEAR'S HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT;

-- EVEN IF VIRTUALLY ALL THE DISAPPEARANCES MAY HAVE BEEN DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATED TO TERRORIST OPERATIONS BY THE MONTONEROS, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT ARGENTINA'S OWN INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED IF ACTIVE TERRORISTS ARE BROUGHT BEFORE MILITARY OR CIVILIAN TRIBUNALS.

6. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE THESE SAME POINTS TO AMBASSADOR AJA ESPIL ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION.

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